

**BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**May 21, 2018**

**Fire Place Room of the Administration Building, 3 West Van Buren, Battle Creek, MI**

**5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Art McClenney

Karen Evans

Nathan Grajek

Eric Jankowski

Catherine LaValley

Jacqueline Slaby

**Present – Administration**

Chandra Youngblood – Director, Elementary Education

Laura Ash – Executive Director, Business Operations

Monique Cheeks – Director, Student Services

Heather Hudson – Executive Director, Human Resources

Chad Osborn – Director, Facilities & Technology

Mitch Fowler – Director, School Data Systems & Innovations

Anita Harvey – Director, District Transformation

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by President McClenney at 5:30 p.m. Laura Ash; Executive Director of Business Operations will fill in for Superintendent Carter. All board members present except Kyrá Wallace.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Karen Evans made a motion to amend the agenda by moving item IV. Artist of the Month before III. Public and adding Mr. Roy Tooke to Reports as Item D.

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

**ARTISTS OF THE MONTH**

Beautiful Sizemore, kindergartener at Dudley Elementary is May's Artist of the Month. Congratulations!

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stephanie Mar slack – glad millage renewal passed; wondered what the BOE plans for the hot Spring days coming up; lack of pay raises; no suspension policy undermines those students who want to learn.

Dianne Smith – teachers feel traumatized due to lack of pay increases; teachers may go to different school districts.

Casey Bess – teacher salaries.

Carmen Meinhardi – paid as though a 8 year teacher instead of 16; new employees paid more; kids deserve to have teachers that will stay.

Joe Ratti – Out of 180 members of the union, 160 are actively looking toward other districts; behavior problems; believe in the change – show us you believe in us.

Katherine Roberts – workman’s compensation issue.

Josh Harter – 8 year teacher, economic difficulties.

Autumn Felder – can’t take advantage of BC city housing; she want to believe in the change but feels as though no one has invested in her.

Brian Driscoll – You are leaders of the school. My gut feels is to take care of their teachers. What is your gut feeling now? Does the BOE want to take care of the fund equity or teachers?

Marshall Allinson – salaries.

Brad Whaley – salaries

### **REPORTS**

- C. Wes Seeley – Trauma Informed Grant update; should have been there last week’s meeting; Jim Owens from Lakeview District joined in with us; we now have twelve (12) trainers for PD training to be done by our new trainers. This will be asked for approval at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- D. Dr. Deborah Nuzzi presented Mr. Roy Tooke – RMTTC Director, KAMA (Kellogg Advanced Manufacturing Assembly) Tiffany Hollins, Workforce Solutions, customized training. Twenty-seven (27) students will begin Fall 2018. For two years, students will be coached if they complete first semester requirements. The goal is to get them to use their Legacy Scholarships. Great opportunity during their senior year of high school. Job training, career exploration plus a skilled trade.

Mr. Tooke appreciated Dr. Nuzzi, Ms. Hollins, and BCCHS students (60 to 70 of them) who filled out an interest card. Will the BOE value this debt free option to a well paid career? Leading our students to completing a certificate, entry level job.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items:
- A. Minutes from April 9 Work Session and April 23 Regular Meeting;
  - B. Bills for the Month of April, 2018
  - C. Personnel Changes and Recognition of Retirees
  - D. Financial Update
  - E. A.O. Jones Scholarship Recipients

Eric Jankowski supported the motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the United Way Budget Revisions with \$244,700 in total expenditures.

Catherine LaValley supported the motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- B. Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the replacement of the sound system at the WK Auditorium in the amount of \$44,566.68 to be paid from the WKKF grant.

Karen Evans supported the motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- C. Karen Evans made a motion to approve the 2018-19 Chartwells Food Services Contract.

Jacqueline Slaby supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- D. Karen Evans made a motion to approve the purchase of walk-in Freezer Combo unit for Dudley STEM in the amount of \$57,809.56 to be paid from the Food Services Excess Funds.

Jacqueline Slaby supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- E. Eric Jankowski made a motion to give Superintendent Carter permission to sign the Sales Agreement for the Markham property in the amount of \$60,000.

Jacqueline Slaby supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- F. Catherine LaValley made a motion to approve the position of Communications Manager.

Jacqueline Slaby supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

- G. Nathan Grajek made a motion to approve the Model Schools Conference in the amount of \$21,218 for 12 educators to be paid from the WKKF grant.

Karen Evans supported that motion.

**Motion passed 6 – 0**

### **SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS**

In the absence of Superintendent Carter, Laura Ash read a prepared statement: We want to recognize the teachers who've come tonight, whether or not you chose to speak. We know that you have very busy days and that you would not be here tonight to address the board, or to support your fellow teachers, if this were not a very important issue to you.

The staff at BCPS's central office and our Board of Education members understands the value of our teachers and support you and your work with our students.

As noted during our April board meeting, state school choice policies, coupled with declining enrollment and inadequate school funding, have adversely affected the district's ability for several years to adjust compensation levels for the hard-working and dedicated teachers, who work tirelessly to create exceptional outcomes for our students and community.

Thanks to the generous investment of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we have been able to recognize our effective and highly effective teachers with retention bonuses of between \$3,000 and \$4,500 a year. We are committed to providing bonuses every year for at least the next four years. These annual bonuses range, on an average, from 4.4% to 13% bonus payment.

We know that the state has to do better to fund our schools. As a district we are working to do better. We are taking decisive action to work to increase enrollment in our schools because we know that increased student enrollment will lead to increased state funding.

In an effort to attract more students and families, we are instituting a new high school career pathways program, a middle school STEM program and an elementary school magnet program.

We want to do what's best for our teachers. We know that we will be in a stronger financial position when we can retain more of our students. And we look forward to working with staff to improve enrollment, so that we can invest in our teachers by increasing compensation.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Nathan Grajek – Inequity in pay scale concerns me. I'm for an equitable pay scale.

Karen Evans – We do value you (teachers) and everyone deserves a raise. Encourage the politicians to realize school funding needs to improve.

Catherine LaValley – I appreciate the stories; we will take it to heart; we don't want to lose our teachers; we want to invest, but the way the state operates with pupil funding it's difficult. It's important to get our students back to BCPS. A idea to the superintendent- want to tell families that we miss them when they are at other districts. Send them a letter and ask what is going on and ask that they come back to BCPS. Impressed that you (teachers) were out on the corner tonight in the rain. We value you. School boards' role is to act on policy and hire 1 employee which was new learning for me when I came to this position. We want to be here for you and I appreciate having the seats filled tonight.

Eric Jankowski – Thanked Mr. Grajek for his statement. No pay raise in six years can affect our teachers greatly.

Jacqueline Slaby – Always strive for communications. Thanked teachers for speaking/telling their stories. It's important for feedback to be heard. Center for Diversity and Innovation panel discussion to be held at KCC in the Kellogg Room on May 30, 12 noon – 1 p.m.

Art McClenney – Thanked the BCEA President for being present. It's important to fill these seats at any board meeting. We are in this together. I hear you (teachers); I really hear you. We are listening. We have to retain our kids. The State seems to not value schools. I earned the MASB Master's Certification; I encourage trustees to become Masters' Certified. Going to the band pops concert tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

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*Catherine LaValley, Board Secretary*